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south carolina state museum

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SPRING

VOLUME XXXIII NO.2

**NEW PLANETARIUM SHOW:  
BLACK HOLES**

**SOUTH CAROLINA AND  
RECONSTRUCTION 1865-1876**

**MAKING NEW DISCOVERIES WITH  
OUR NATURAL HISTORY CURATOR**



## THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

WILLIAM CALLOWAY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### The EXTRAORDINARY BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Planetarium

When we were contemplating the product elements for the Windows to New Worlds project, at the core was always a planetarium. The closing of the former Gibbes Planetarium in the 1990s was the primary impetus for the project which was originally called O.P.T. – Observatory, Planetarium and Theater. Funding for the Planetarium equipment was secured early on in 1999 with a \$2,000,000 grant from NASA.

When we began to source vendors to supply equipment back in 2003, digital night sky projection technology was just coming online in a way that was acceptable to astronomers and educators. Opto-mechanical, a standard technology at the time that is still used in many research planetariums today, uses a hollow ball with a light inside and a pinhole for each star with a small lens in the hole to focus the light to a sharp point on the dome. We chose to invest with the leading provider of digital planetarium systems in the world – Evans and Sutherland. One of the overriding reasons for the selection was the flexibility the digital system gave us to show much more varied content in the dome which basically serves as a blank canvas for any content that we wish to project.

The main use of the planetarium is, of course, astronomy shows. We choose astronomy shows that target educational standards for our school visitation as well as generic shows that appeal to our general family attendance. We have selected a NEW educational film, *We Are Stars*, which we will introduce next fall when schools return. As you will see in this issue, we have also invested in a NEW film suitable for our entire audience, *Black Holes*.

Our multitalented planetarium manager, Liz Klimek, also creates our own *Live Sky* shows where she uses the programming capability of the system to display celestial objects as she takes the audience on a tour of the universe. Liz also has created her own programmed show specifically for the eclipse, *Shadows from Space*.

The planetarium also has a system that projects lasers and we do themed, seasonal shows for special holidays such as Christmas, Halloween and even a patriotic laser show. These shows project lasers onto the screen set to the applicable music of the season. These laser shows have become annual events for visitors to attend.

Another use of the dome and projection system that we introduced last year is called giant screen transfers. This is where large format films designed for IMAX like theaters are reconfigured to be projected onto a curved planetarium

screen such as ours. The film we showed last year using this format was *Sea Monsters* and it was very well received by audiences. As a result, we will select a NEW giant screen transfer film soon that we hope to begin showing in time for the summer tourist season.

The planetarium has a very elaborate 5.1 sound system that we also use to our advantage for special programming events. Our two best uses of the music laser shows are our Friday Night Laser Light series and our annual Growl at the Moon October event featuring *Pink Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon*. Coming soon we'll introduce new full dome music videos to the lineup. This musical experience is supported by computer generated graphic images versus projected lasers. We have already acquired a NEW Led Zeppelin show with this format that we will introduce at the next Friday night music event in April.

Other uses for the planetarium include showing Blu-ray movies such as *Frozen* that we present every Christmas. That same projection system also allows us to show any image originating from a laptop ranging from corporate PowerPoint presentations to YouTube videos. We have also had choir performances, dramatic readings and couples married in the space.

As you can see, the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Planetarium is an EXTRAORDINARY theater that has wide range of uses and benefits for the State Museum. We are thankful for the generous support of BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina that allowed us to bring such an amazing venue to the state of South Carolina. I encourage you to visit us soon and check out some of the new shows and different technologies – you will not be disappointed!

#### Tech stats

- Evans and Sutherland Digistar 5 system
- 145 seats
- Dome tilt at 18 degrees
- 55 foot dome – one of the largest in the Southeast
- Full 180° viewing area
- Spitz Nano Seam perforated aluminum, reflective screen
- LED Cover Lighting – multi-color capable of programmable special effects
- Interactive seat buttons to quiz students

#### Attendance to Planetarium Since Opening

Total attendance: 200,000  
School attendance: 82,500  
School % of Attendance: 41%



# INSIDE

## FEATURES

### 3 | BLACK HOLES

Learn about the museum's new mind-bending planetarium show, *Black Holes* and hear from Planetarium Manager, Liz Klimek, on why this might be one of the most exciting new planetarium shows yet.

### 5 | RECONSTRUCTION EXHIBIT

Preview this riveting new exhibit exploring the years following the Civil War. This exhibition uses artifacts from the time period to examine the devastation of the war, and the changes in labor, society and the law.

### 15 | CURATOR'S CORNER

Hear from Natural History Curator Dave Cicimurri on how he works with other agencies across the state to collect, and study exciting new fossils found in South Carolina.

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## MUSEUM COMMISSION

John McCabe, Chairman  
Dr. Amon A. Martin Jr., District 3  
Sharon Bryant, At Large  
Gray T. Culbreath, At Large  
Lou S. Nolan, District 2  
Dr. Alexander Patrick, District 4  
Col. Claude Eichelberger, District 5

## ABOUT IMAGES MAGAZINE

*IMAGES* is the quarterly membership magazine for the South Carolina State Museum. All material printed in *IMAGES* is copyrighted 2018 by the South Carolina State Museum and may not be reprinted without permission.

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## CONTACTS

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Membership: 803.898.4937

## MUSEUM HOURS

Mon/Wed, Thur/Fri: 10a.m. - 5a.m.  
Tues 10a.m. - 10p.m.  
Sat 10a.m. - 6p.m.  
Sun 12p.m. - 5p.m.

**OPEN:** State and federal holidays

**CLOSED:** Easter, Thanksgiving,  
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day



VISIT US AT: [SCMUSEUM.ORG](http://SCMUSEUM.ORG)

# Get Pulled In

## New Planetarium Show: Black Holes

*Black Holes*, narrated by John de Lancie, best known for his role as Q in the television series, *Star Trek*, will take guests on a 35 minute, mind-bending journey that will bring them face to face with these strange and enigmatic denizens of the cosmos.

Unimaginably powerful, relentless and invisible, black holes are some of the most fascinating and extreme objects in the universe. They warp space and time, swallow up stars and gas that get too close and can grow to monstrous sizes. They're also the subject of the State Museum's new planetarium show, *Black Holes*, now showing daily in the BlueCross Blue Shield of South Carolina Planetarium.

We always invite questions after every show, and the topic that gets brought up most frequently is black holes," said planetarium manager Liz Klimek. "There's a mystery about them. They represent places in the universe where physics gets pretty extreme and is unlike anything in our experience here on Earth. That's part of the reason they capture the imagination."

Once only speculation, we now know that black holes are not only real, but also quite common. How do they form? Where are they found? What would happen to you if you fell into one? These are questions that kids and adults alike ask again and again.

"For three and a half years we've been taking guests to and through our solar system and beyond, visiting planets,


nebulae and galaxies. But we couldn't take them to see a black hole ... until now."

This show is a response to all of those questions. We're thrilled to finally be able to take viewers on an epic journey into deep space to satisfy their curiosity. Watch a black hole form as a star much more massive than our sun collapses into a single point, where direction and time have no meaning. Then dive into the heart of our galaxy to encounter a supermassive black hole, where the mass of millions of suns is crammed into a space smaller than our solar system. Learn about what we know and what we have yet to learn about one of nature's strangest and most powerful phenomena.

*Black Holes*, narrated by John de Lancie, best known for his role as Q in the television series, *Star Trek*, will take guests on a 35 minute, mind-bending journey that will bring them face to face with these strange and enigmatic denizens of the cosmos.

For a limited time guests can see this exciting new show free with the purchase of an Explorer 2 pass, from now until April 30!

**For a limited time guests can see this exciting new show free with the purchase of an Explorer 2 pass, from now until April 30! For full schedule and tickets, visit: [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org)**



Not sure exactly what a black hole is, and want a little background before seeing the show? We've got you covered. Observatory Manager, Matthew Whitehouse, took some time out of his busy schedule to answer a few questions about the phenomena.

### **What are Black Holes?**

A black hole is an area of space where the gravity is so intense that nothing - not even light - can escape. The gravity is so strong because matter has been squeezed into a super-tiny space.

### **How Big Are Black Holes?**

Astronomers usually talk about a black hole's size in terms of its mass. A typical black hole might have a mass ranging from 5 to 20 times the mass of the sun. However, the centers of many large galaxies - including our Milky Way galaxy - have supermassive black holes that can be several million times as massive as the sun. Don't worry, though; the giant black hole at the center of our galaxy is much too far away to have any effect on Earth.

### **How Do Black Holes Form?**

Astronomers have a pretty clear idea of how average-sized black holes form...they form when an extremely massive star dies in a giant explosion known as a supernova. We're less sure of how supermassive black holes in the centers of galaxies form. Astronomers think they formed at the same time as their host galaxies, but they're unsure of the details.

### **Could a Black Hole Destroy Earth?**

Extremely unlikely. Black holes don't roam the galaxy, eating everything in sight like giant space monsters. And you have to get really, really close to most black holes to get pulled in. So even if the sun were to turn into a black hole - which will never happen because the sun isn't massive enough - Earth would simply continue in its orbit. This is because the black hole would have the same mass as the sun, just squeezed into a smaller space.

### **How Is NASA Studying Black Holes?**

Astronomers from NASA and other organizations around the world study black holes but face one big challenge: they give off no light of their own. Even with our most powerful telescopes, we can't see black holes directly. We can see their effects, though, which are often dramatic. For instance, matter spiraling into black holes at the centers of some galaxies can create immense, super-hot jets that are easily visible in telescopes.

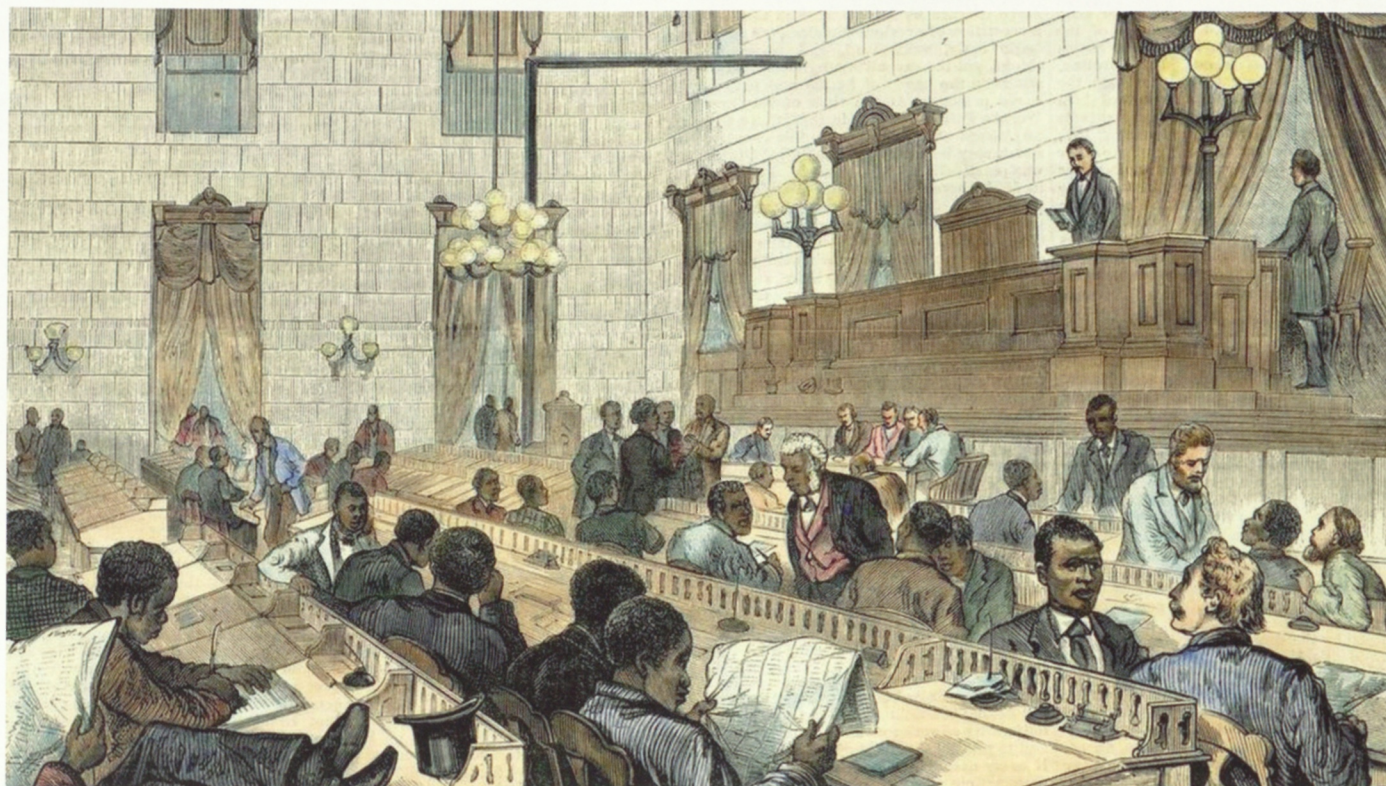
Now that you're in the know, be sure to visit the State Museum for an exciting and immersive journey into *Black Holes*.

### **CURRENT SHOWTIMES\*:**

**MON: 2:30 P.M.**  
**TUES: 2:30 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M.**  
**WED. – FRI: 2:30 P.M.**  
**SAT: 12:30 P.M. AND 3:30 P.M.**  
**SUN: 1:30 P.M. AND 3:30 P.M.**

\*times subject to change

**NOW THROUGH APRIL 30! SEE BLACK HOLES FREE**  
**with purchase of Explorer 2 ticket.**



## MUSEUM NEWS

### SOUTH CAROLINA AND RECONSTRUCTION, 1865-1876

"...We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." - Pres. Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

The end of the Civil War in 1865 may have given nearly 4 million slaves their freedom, but the process of creating that "new birth of freedom", especially in South Carolina, during the Reconstruction period introduced a new set of significant challenges. In the museum's newest exhibit, *South Carolina and Reconstruction, 1865-1876*, guests will explore life for South Carolinians during this time of fundamental social, economic, and political change.

Guests will walk through a timeline of impactful changes for South Carolinians during reconstruction. First, they had to recover from the wounds of war and objects in the exhibit such as a wooden leg and mourning gown show the destruction, physical and social, that Sherman's army inflicted. The exhibition also includes a caisson used by soldiers returning from Appomattox,

Va, an authentic carpetbag and farm tools used by workers in the aftermath of the war.

South Carolina government significantly changed as the state's first bi-racial legislature put forward a progressive new state constitution in 1868. Guests will get an up-close look at a desk and chair from the State House, used during Reconstruction as well as a copy of the state's 1868 constitution, and school desks from when the state offered public education for the first time.

This exhibit, rich with artifacts, will give guests a real take on the struggles of South Carolinians during this era. It charts African American's struggle to define their newly acquired citizenship on their terms against forces that would return the state to its prewar structure. Reconstruction was a tumultuous time for all South Carolinians, yet it had broad triumphs and laid groundwork for future victories in civil and equal rights.

See *South Carolina and Reconstruction, 1865-1876* now open in the Palmetto Gallery on the fourth floor.

# MUSEUM NEWS

## THE ART OF THE DECOY



In 2017, the State Museum commissioned Tom Boozer to create 20 decoys for the museum's collection including this shorebird collection. These carvings represent shorebirds that can be found regularly along the South Carolina Coast, and the more elusive Black Rail that is very rarely seen by humans among the sea oats. You can see Boozer's latest creations in the Natural History habitats on the museum's 2nd floor.

"I've been blessed ... really, really blessed," said Boozer while taking a break in his shop on Yonge's Island in South Carolina's low country. Boozer's wife says he's completed over 3,250 decoys since he started crafting the unique wood carved waterfowl. After working in the "corporate world," Boozer left his job and dedicated his time to carving decoys full time, and at 68, he's showing no signs of slowing down.

"I'm what you call a purist, but I'll tell you what, it's catching up with me," Boozer joked. "Dragging the chains and cables to get logs that weigh close to 300 pounds ... it's tough, but worth it."

While the wood carved decoy is an American Indian craft devised to aid in hunting, Boozer's interest in decoys started around 1950, at only 9 years old. Growing up in a family that loved to hunt, Boozer got a firsthand lesson in wood carving from family friend, Olin Ballentine, a furniture

maker, trapper and decoy carver from Lexington, SC.

"Ballentine taught me the basics of it, like how to pick the right trees," says Boozer. "White Cedar, that's the preferred wood, because it has a natural preservative oil in it that keeps it from decay and warping."

While some modern decoys are often made of canvas and plastic, Boozer sticks to what he calls the, "old world style," hand carving decoys with large hollow bodies with high heads popularized in the 1840s and 50s.

"Decoy makers then really got into detailing the heads really well," Boozer says. "What really attracts the birds are the bodies and the shape of the head. You have to have a real high profile."

While his favorite duck to hunt and carve is the American Black Duck, because as he says, "you gotta be on your toes to catch one of those guys," Boozer creates over 60 species of waterfowl. He's also used his talents to create historical models and even dioramas.

Boozer's waterfowl decoys are often used by hunters across the Carolina Coast, but this hobby isn't just one for hunters. The craft is also considered American Folk Art, and Boozer is one of the best, winning the prestigious Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award, our state's highest award for folk and traditional art in 1998.

"I've been blessed ... really, really blessed."



# MUSEUM NEWS

## MUSEUM YARD SALE

Museums have junk too! Come rummage around in the no-longer-needed props, furniture, and other unique items from the State Museum. Whether you are looking for something to hang on your walls or looking for your next weekend DIY project, the State Museum has the perfect treasure waiting to go in your home, school, office or church.

# MUSEUM YARD SALE SATURDAY, APRIL 14

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT [SCMUSEUM.ORG](http://SCMUSEUM.ORG) OR CALL  
(803) 898-4921.

**MEMBER ONLY PRESALE: 8 - 9 A.M.**  
**GENERAL PUBLIC: 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.**  
**SPECIAL BLACK BAG SALE: 1:30 - 2 P.M.**

Purchase a black bag for only \$5 and fill it with anything left over from the sale.

All proceeds from the sale will go to support the State Museum.

**Please note:** *There are no artifacts in the yard sale. Some items in the sale are props and were produced to enhance exhibits.*

### Cosmic Fridays: A New Musical Experience | April 27

The State Museum has upgraded our favorite Friday night planetarium music experience by giving our guests the chance to experience music come to life on our 55ft planetarium dome in two different formats.

## COSMIC FRIDAYS

A MUSICAL EXPERIENCE

**APRIL 27 | DOORS OPEN @ 6:00 P.M.**

**LASER LIGHT SHOW: 7 P.M.**  
The Beatles: Abbey Road

**FULL DOME MUSIC EXPERIENCE: 8 P.M.**  
Led Zeppelin

**LASER LIGHT SHOW: 9 P.M.**  
Jimi Hendrix

**FULL DOME MUSIC EXPERIENCE: 10 P.M.**  
Led Zeppelin

### NEW: Full Dome Music Videos

In this new full dome musical experience, guests will get immersed into a visual exploration of their favorite Led Zeppelin songs. This exciting CG visual experience will transport audiences with the feeling of motion and transcendence bringing the music to life.

### Laser Show

This classic full dome laser experience will get guests rocking with a dazzling display of laser imagery set to music. Lasers will dance across our 55 ft. dome, choreographed to pop, rock and EDM hits, giving our guests the ultimate Friday night musical experience.

**Experience them both for the first time, Friday, April 27!** Delicious tacos from Señor Resources Food Truck and a selection of beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. Plus, be sure to purchase a special set of laser enhancing glasses for only \$1.

**FOR TICKETS & SHOW SCHEDULES VISIT: [SCMUSEUM.ORG](http://SCMUSEUM.ORG)**

# NEW ACQUISITIONS

FILL IN THE GAP: OPENING IN MAY

State Museum curators have been busy adding to our collection the past five years. Adding objects from each discipline to help us tell South Carolina's story. Now it's time to display some of the fantastic items we've acquired in a new exhibit called *Fill in the Gap* opening Saturday, May 19.

The State Museum's collection now boasts more than 100,000 artifacts, and the collection continues to grow and evolve on a daily basis through museum purchases and generous gifts from individuals. *Fill in the Gap* is a unique show produced by our curators. They hand-selected a number of items from the objects that have been acquired between 2013 and 2018 for the public to view and enjoy, some for the first time.

This exhibition will include items from all disciplines represented in the collection, including fossil finds, Catawba Indian and other South Carolina pottery, fine art by South Carolina artists and fascinating historical objects. Guests will also learn how curators work to conserve objects like an original Byrne telescope along with its parts.

"As South Carolina evolves, so does the State Museum's storyline," said Paul Matheny, director of collections. "We are always looking for new artifacts to fill gaps in the collection to tell the whole story of our state. We'll never stop looking for and acquiring objects for the museum's collection."

In addition to showcasing never-before-seen items, guests will have the opportunity to learn about the process that the museum undergoes to acquire, catalog, store and exhibit artifacts for the public. While few objects may go on exhibit immediately after they are acquired, most are usually stored until an exhibition is developed at a later date. *Fill in the Gap*, will be a one-time opportunity for guests to see these new artifacts and learn about the process to collect them before they rotate to other exhibitions throughout the museum or are placed in storage for future research and exhibitions.



Tarleton Blackwell  
*The Hog Series*, 1996  
graphite and mixed  
media



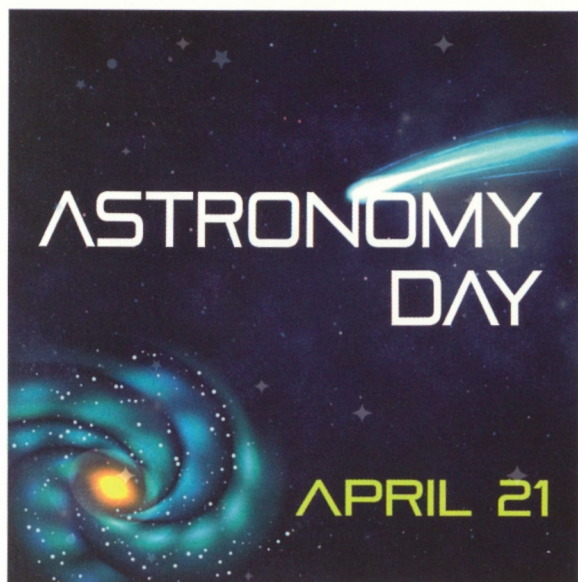
First generation Fender Stratocaster guitar and original case, 1963; Gift of Frank Strait in memory of James Strait.



Weather Measure Corporation, Theodolite, ca 1955, Gift of Robert K. Taylor in memory of Joseph Steinmetz



Undescribed fossil whale skull, 29 million years old. Collected 2015 from the Ashley River in Dorchester County, SC.



One lucky winner will go home with a free telescope from Explore Scientific!

## JOIN US FOR ASTRONOMY DAY!

**Saturday, April 21 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Free with membership or museum general admission**

The State Museum will celebrate Astronomy Day, Saturday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum will be partnering with various community organizations to increase awareness and appreciation for both our world and our universe through a variety of fun science activities and demonstrations.

As always, the Boeing Observatory will be open for solar viewing, but even if the clouds roll in, there will be special fun and engaging activities for all. Of course, it's always clear in the planetarium, where you won't want to miss a one-of-a-kind encounter with one of nature's most mysterious objects in our new show, *Black Holes*. You can also get a sneak peek at the upcoming Lyrid meteor shower in our *Live Sky Tour*.

*\*Planetarium shows are an additional fee.*

## TEACHER APPRECIATION NIGHT!

**Tuesday, May 8 | 5 - 8 p.m.**

**FREE for all SC teachers with an official School ID**

In recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week, the museum will be celebrating South Carolina teachers with a special free event. The museum will host Teacher Appreciation Night, May 8 from 5 until 8 p.m.

All teachers will receive free general admission and will receive up to 3 free general admission tickets for friends and family. In addition, guests will get a special preview of museum planetarium shows starting at 5:15, 6:45 and 8:15 p.m. Museum educators and astronomers will be on hand to discuss 2018 – 2019 school year programs available to teachers and students. There will be hourly demonstrations on SC history, natural history, robotics, outreach and more. Plus, each teacher will receive a free gift bag and 10% off in the Cotton Mill Exchange. Register for free online at [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org)!



Register for free online at [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org)!



# SUMMER CAMP AT THE STATE MUSEUM

**JUNE 4 - AUGUST 17**

*No camps the week of July 4*

presented by **Aflac**

## WEEKLY THEMES

Please visit [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org) for full descriptions

### 6 - 8 YEAR OLD CAMPS

Can You Dig it! | Cosmic Kids | Byte-Size Bots | Books & Brushes  
Making Sense of Our Senses

### 9 - 11 YEAR OLD CAMPS

Brighter than Ever! | Thing-a-ma-Bot | Tinkering in the Edge (of Glory) Crime  
Scene Investigators | Dig SC?

### 12 - 14 YEAR OLD CAMPS

Tableaux Vivant | Mission Exploration | Robot Revolution | Inside Nature's  
Weirdest Animals | A Walk Back in Time



#### MUSEUM MEMBERS:

\$160/week  
\$145 additional weeks  
Extended Day: \$50/week

#### NON-MEMBERS:

\$200/week  
\$180 additional weeks  
Extended Day: \$60/week

#### CAMP HOURS

Drop-off: 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.  
Pick-up: 3:00 - 3:30 p.m.  
Extended Day: 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

FOR FULL CAMP DESCRIPTION & REGISTRATION

**301 GERVAIS ST. | 803.898.4999 | [SCMUSEUM.ORG](http://SCMUSEUM.ORG) | [CAMPS@SCMUSEUM.ORG](mailto:CAMPS@SCMUSEUM.ORG)**

# 2018 SPRING EVENTS

Events are included with your museum membership or general admission unless otherwise noted. Dates and times are subject to change.

**VISIT [SCMUSEUM.ORG](http://SCMUSEUM.ORG) FOR A FULL SCHEDULE AND TICKETS.**

## DAILY SHOWS

### **Rev. Dr. Solomon Jackson, Jr. 4D Theater**

*The LEGO® Movie™ 4D Experience (Closes May 25)*

*Tiny Giants: 4D Experience®*

### **BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Planetarium**

*NEW! Black Holes*

*Two Small Pieces of Glass and the Mysterious Moon*

*Earth, Moon and Sun*

*Live Sky Tour*

*From Earth to the Universe*

### **Boeing Observatory (weather permitting)**

**Solar Viewing:** Every Day

**Night Sky Viewing:** Every Tuesday until 10 p.m.

## CURRENT EXHIBITS

### **NEW! South Carolina and Reconstruction, 1865-1876 • 4th Floor**

Discover artifacts from this time period to examine the devastation of the Civil War, and the changes in labor, society and law. Visitors will learn that while Reconstruction ended in 1876, we continue to struggle with its promises today.

### **NEW! Fill in the Gap, Opens May 19 • 4th Floor**

Discover items recently acquired by the museum within the last five years and learn about the process curators use to collect them.

### **Requiem for Mother Emanuel (Closing April 29) • 4th Floor**

This exhibit features nine batik works of art created by South Carolina artist Leo Twiggs in the aftermath of the 2015 murders at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

### **Eclipsing 50: The State Art Collection 1967 -2017 • 1st Floor**

A part of the SC Arts Commission's 50th anniversary, this show highlights art work collected between 1967 and 2017 by the commission.

## APRIL

### Closed Easter Sunday | Sunday, April 1

There will not be a First Citizens Sunday this month in observance of Easter Sunday.

### Spring Break Camps | Mon. - Fri. April 2 - April 6

### Museum Yard Sale

**Saturday, April 14 | 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

8 a.m. Special preview sale for members.

*See page 7 for details.*

### Circle of Dialogue

**Tuesday, April 17 | 6:30 - 8 p.m.**

Artist Dr. Leo Twiggs will join guests for part of the discussion.

Guests are invited to join a facilitator-led discussion group to explore their reactions to this thought-provoking exhibition. You can arrive early to view the exhibit and then join the discussion. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to this session. PLEASE NOTE: There is no additional charge to participate, however space may be limited, so contact RSVP online below or email [group\\_visits@scmuseum.org](mailto:group_visits@scmuseum.org) to participate.

### Astronomy Day

**Saturday April 21 | 10 - 4 p.m.**

*See page 9 for details.*

### Bluegrass Night at 2nd Shift Twosday

**Tuesday April 24 | 6 - 8 p.m.**

The public is invited to bring their own acoustic instruments and jam out with members of the South Carolina Bluegrass and Traditional Music Association.

### Cosmic Fridays, April 27 | 6 - 10 p.m.

*See page 7 for details.*

## MAY

### Midlands Gives - Headquarters

**Tuesday, May 1**

*See page 17 for details.*

### First Citizens First Sundays | Sunday, May 6 12 -5 p.m.

General admission is only \$1 for guests on the first Sunday of every month! PLUS enjoy 4-D movies, planetarium shows and/or blockbuster exhibit admission, for only an extra \$5 each!

### Teacher Appreciation Day

**Tuesday, May 8 | 5 - 8 p.m.**

*See page 9 for details.*

### Bluegrass Night at 2nd Shift Twosday

**Tuesday, May 29 | 6 - 8 p.m.**



See The Lego® Movie™ 4D Experience before it closes May 25!

## JUNE

### Summer Camps | June 4 - August 17

*See page 10 for details.*

### Paleopalooza

**Saturday, June 16 | 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.**

*See page 13 for details.*

### First Citizens First Sundays | 12 -5 p.m.

**Sunday, June 3**

### Cosmic Fridays, June 15 | 6 - 10 p.m.

### Bluegrass Night at 2nd Shift Twosday

**Tuesday, June 26 | 6 - 8 p.m.**

## COMING IN JULY!

### Cosmic Fridays

**Friday, July 27 | 6 - 10 p.m.**

### History Day

**Saturday, July 21**

## WE'RE OPEN LATE ON TUESDAYS!



### 2ND SHIFT TWOSDAYS | 6 - 10 p.m.

The South Carolina State Museum is open late every Tuesday for Second Shift Twosdays. Guests can explore the evening sky in the observatory, catch *The LEGO Movie 4D Experience* in the 4D theater, and experience some of your favorite tunes choreographed set to a spectacular laser show in the planetarium. General admission is two for \$10 starting at 5 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE MUSEUM

# PALEO PALOOZA

NATURAL HISTORY DAY

**JUNE 16 | 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.**

- See live flight demonstrations and birds of prey from Winged Ambassadors.
- Hear from famed SC naturalist and former co-host of ETV's Nature Scene, Rudy Mancke.
- Get an up close look at live snakes.
- Draw your favorite wild animal for your chance to win a cool prize.
- Kid friendly fun and hands on activities throughout the museum.


**FREE WITH MUSEUM GENERAL ADMISSION OR MEMBERSHIP**
**FOR INFORMATION VISIT: [SCMUSEUM.ORG](http://SCMUSEUM.ORG)**

# MORE FOR MEMBERS

## ASTRO KIDS, THE FIRST CLASS

Tracy Anderson

On February 16, the State Museum held its inaugural AstroKid Space Party and it was a huge success! A big thanks to all the kids and family members for spending the evening with us. We've received great feedback from all of you and can't wait for next year's party.

A digital copy of the official class photo is available on our website at [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org) and all AstroKids who attended the party received a physical copy of the photo below.

### Join in on the fun!

**AstroKids** club is for children 5-12 who are interested in space and the universe around us. Being apart of this club comes with great perks and benefits for your child and will encourage learning and fun as they explore space like never before.

AstroKids Club is available for any new or existing museum member for \$25 per child, per year. Children who wish to become AstroKids need to be covered under a parent membership (Family Basic level and above). You can register your child for AstroKids at any time but AstroKids will renew along with the parent membership

### All AstroKids receive the following benefits:

- Official AstroKids Membership Card
- Official AstroKids T-shirt
- Astronomer's Field Guide
- Invitation to the Annual Space Party
- Additional 10% off family overnights or birthday parties
- Exclusive AstroKids Enewsletters
- And More!



# CURATOR'S CORNER

## MAKING NEW DISCOVERIES

Dave Cicimurri

*Fill in the Gap*, a new exhibit opening at the State Museum in May, will include some of the fantastic things that we've acquired during the past five years. One of the fossils that will be on display was collected back in 2015, and its recovery was a collaborative effort among the State Museum, College of Charleston (C of C), and the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA).

The fossil was found by a kayaker on the Ashley River, upstream from Colonial Dorchester State Park in Summerville, SC. At low tide, the water was shallow enough for him to see the dark brown fossil on the river bottom. He recognized it as a whale skull and contacted SCIAA and the State Museum about his discovery. A field crew consisting of myself and our former natural history curator, two divers from SCIAA, and two C of C representatives, went to collect the fossil.

We met at a boat landing and ferried our gear by boat upstream to the site. Our arrival was timed to coincide with the maximum low tide, and the fossil was clearly visible in six inches of water. My hope was that the enclosing rock was soft enough that we could quickly chip into it with rock hammers, chisels and shovels to isolate the skull, then break it free and remove it in one large block. Interestingly, the tide started to come back in within a half hour of our starting to excavate, and the race was on to remove the skull before the water was over our heads. The rock turned out to be very hard and we spent several hours trenching around the skull. When it was deep enough that we couldn't see the fossil, our SCIAA colleagues donned their SCUBA gear and they spent time on the river bottom chiseling away and directing our shovels to clear away the rock. After the water got to be about chest high, we made a plan to return the next morning to (hopefully) finish excavating the skull.

The tide was still going out when we arrived at the boat ramp the next day, and we quickly loaded our gear and paddled up to the site. Additional tools were brought in to help with the excavation, and after a couple of hours we were able to trench down deep enough to pry the block loose. The tide was coming back in while we were trenching, and because our SCIAA colleagues weren't with us, we needed to pry the block away quickly before the water became too deep. A sledgehammer and pry bar were just the tools we needed, but rather than coming out in one big block of matrix, the skull was removed in two smaller blocks. We soon discovered that

the rock enclosing the skull was already fractured, and the block came apart along the fracture.

Back at the museum, I spent about 20 hours using a mini air chisel and several kinds of dental picks to carefully remove the matrix (rock) from the around skull bones. The skull had broken along the fracture in the rock and some pieces of bone had become separated, but special glue was used to put everything back together. Although the part of the skull that was exposed on the river bottom (which was actually the roof of the mouth -the skull was upside down) was a little eroded, the top of the skull was beautifully preserved within the rock. A colleague who studies fossil whales recently saw the skull and quickly decided that it represents a new species. He's hoping to visit the State Museum within a few months to examine the fossil more closely. We'll keep you posted on the results of the findings!



Undescribed fossil whale skull, 29 million years old. Collected 2015 from the Ashley River in Dorchester County, SC.

# THROWBACK THIRTY

WE'RE CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN 2018



## RIBBON CUTTING

Former Governor Carroll Campbell cuts a ribbon made of duck cotton to open the museum on October, 29, 1988. Cotton duck was the material manufactured in the former Mount Vernon Mills building.

Thousands of visitors attended the grand opening event. Skydivers touched ground just moments before 12 p.m., brandishing a pair of giant ceremonial scissors for the former Governor to officially announce the opening.

This year the South Carolina State Museum will celebrate its 30th anniversary and we've got some exciting things planned for the year ahead.

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**Thank you to all our Friends of Finn for their support of the  
South Carolina State Museum Foundation!!**

**We would like to say a special thank you to Jan Shackelford, Pat Segars,  
Nonie Price, Ann Holtschlag, and Ann Oliver for their continuous hard work  
and efforts in making Friends of Finn a Success!!!**

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**JOIN TODAY! For more information about Friends of Finn  
visit [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org)**

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**MIDLANDS GIVES**  
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Community Foundation

May 1, 2018 **CELEBRATING 5 YEARS** [midlandsgives.org](http://midlandsgives.org)

## You can make a DIFFERENCE!

The State Museum is the proud headquarters for the  
5th Annual Midlands Gives event!

Head to [midlandsgives.org](http://midlandsgives.org) on Tuesday, May 1, 2018, beginning at  
12:00:01 a.m. and ending at 11:59:59 p.m. for 24 hours of giving.



With a donation of \$30 or more, you can  
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its impact on education in South Carolina.

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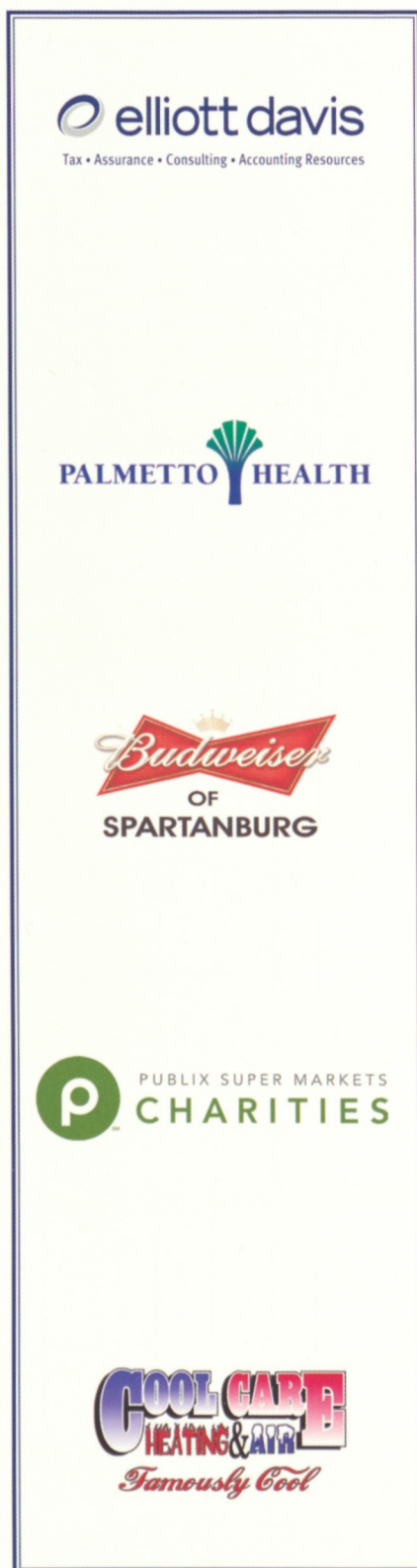
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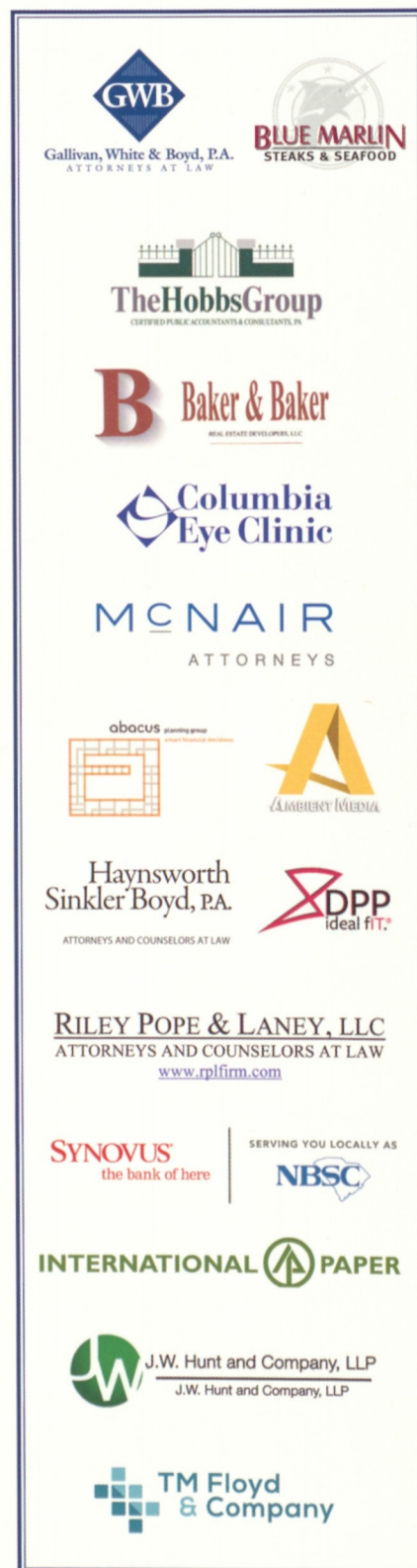
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3



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